

## **PENELOPE**

Music by Gabriel-Urban Fauré

Libretto by René Fauchois

First Performance: Opéra de Monte Carlo, March 4, 1913

Because Ulysses has not returned after many years from the Trojan war, his wife Penelope is besieged by many suitors. She puts them off by promising to decide with the tapestry she is weaving shall be completed, but by night she unravels what she has done by day. Detected in it, she is forced to agree to choose a suitor. Ulysses meanwhile has returned in the guise of an old beggar, recognized only by the old shepherd Eumee and the nurse Euryclée. The suitors agree to Penelope's condition that they try with Ulysses' bow to shoot through the rings of axes. One by one they fail. Ulysses then takes the bow and succeeds, disposes of the suitors, and is reunited with Penelope.